

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
TERRY JOYCE, SR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Terry "Kelly" Joyce, Sr., devoted husband, father, grandfather, friend and staunch labor advocate, whose commitment to family, to his Irish heritage and to the workers of Cleveland has left an indelible imprint throughout our community.

Born and raised in County Mayo, Ireland, Mr. Joyce immigrated to America in 1957 and settled in Cleveland. A year later, he met his wife, Bridget "Bridie" Jennings, whose journey to America also originated in County Mayo. They married in 1964 and raised three children, Maureen, Eileen and Terry. Mr. Joyce's wife, children and grandchildren were the center and spark of his life—and he remained actively involved in their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Joyce held their Irish homeland close to their hearts, and regularly celebrated treasured customs and traditions for their children and grandchildren to know and cherish. They travelled often from Cleveland to the Emerald Isle, and their strong connection to their heritage reflected throughout our community. Mr. Joyce was named the Irish Fellowship Man of the Year in 1974, and helped found the Irish National Caucus in Cleveland, serving as its president in 1971. He also served on the board of the West Side Irish American Club (WSIA) for many years, and was named the WSIA Man of the Year in 1978. In 1991, he served as co-chair of the Cleveland St. Patrick's Day Parade, and served as parade announcer for twenty-four years.

Mr. Joyce lived his life with heart, compassion, integrity, a great sense of humor and an unwavering work ethic. He mastered the construction trades and became a union member and leader. In 1957, the same year he settled in America, Mr. Joyce joined Cleveland's Laborers Local 310. From 1965 until his retirement in 1991, he served as Local 310's business agent. Mr. Joyce also served as president of the Ohio Labor District Council from 1975 until his retirement in 1991. During his tenure as labor leader, he worked tirelessly on behalf of workers and their families. Mr. Joyce was responsible for major advances in the labor force, including the attainment of critical benefits, including pensions, for union workers. Because of his leadership, Laborers Local 310 of Cleveland grew to become one of the most effective labor unions in the country.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor and remembrance of Terry "Kelly" Joyce, Sr., whose energy for life, kind heart, and unwavering service to others will forever endure within the hearts and memories of his family, friends and the laborers of our community. I extend my condolences to Mr. Joyce's wife, Bridget; to his children, Maureen, Eileen and Terry; to his son-in-law John and daughter-in-law Nicole; to his grandchildren, Brona, Eoin, Cormac and Aislinn; sister, Grace; and to his extended family members and numerous friends. From family and friends to County and Cleveland Mayor, Mr. Joyce's love of life and service to others will continue to touch the hearts of many, and he will be remembered always.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 852 H. Res. 863, No. 853 H. Res. 641, No. 854 H. Res. 711, and No. 855 H. Res. 856 I was not present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 852; "yea" on No. 853; "yea" on No. 854, and "yea" on No. 855.

CELEBRATING INCREASED FUNDING FOR NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AND NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the recent increase in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities. The Fiscal Year 2010 Interior Appropriations bill, which President Obama has signed into law, contains \$167.5 million in funding for both agencies, an increase of \$12.5 million over last year's level. This is on top of the \$50 million that the NEA received in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to preserve jobs in the arts. As a member of both the Arts and Humanities Caucuses, I want to thank Representatives SLAUGHTER, PLATTS, PRICE (NC), and PETRI, as well as Chairman DICKS, for their hard work in pushing for these funding increases.

The arts and humanities play a crucial role in our society: they enhance our creativity, promote critical aspects of education, and provide Americans with the opportunity to view works of beauty and personal expression. Through exposure to the arts and humanities, our children are inspired to explore their own creativity and encouraged towards positive development in the course of their educational careers. There are also economic benefits of local arts in our communities, not just for those employed in theaters or museums, but also for tourism and economic revitalization programs. The downturn in philanthropic giving, brought on by the economic collapse, has constrained or even closed cultural institutions and, in turn, the restaurants, hotels, and construction industries that rely on their success. This is just one more reason that these funding increases are needed.

I also want to recognize President Obama for understanding the important role that the arts and humanities play in enriching our lives and strengthening our economy. The President has appointed two exceptionally qualified individuals to head the NEA and NEH. Jim Leach, our former colleague, has a distinguished academic background, including his recent service as Visiting Professor of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School. He brings to the NEH a first-hand understanding of the needs of educators, historians, curators, researchers, archivists and scholars. Rocco

Landesman, the Director of the NEA, has a long and varied career in the performing arts, and has brought an energy and focus to the job that will help foster a vibrant artistic landscape.

Again, I rise to celebrate these important funding increases, and I look forward to working with the President and my colleagues to strengthen support for the arts and humanities.

VETERANS' SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND SERVICE-MEMBERS PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3949, the Veterans' Small Business Assistance and Servicemembers Protection Act of 2009, a bill which I am pleased to co-sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, this is an omnibus bill that would make improvements in several areas of veterans legislation by including provisions from bills introduced by Economic Opportunity Subcommittee Chairwoman HERSETH SANDLIN, Ms. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, and Mr. FRANK.

However, I am very disappointed that due to jurisdictional issues raised by the majority side of the Committee on Small Business, a provision from my bill, H.R. 3223 was withdrawn from the bill. My provision would merely change the word "may" to "shall" to authorize VA contracting officers to award non-competitive contracts worth less than \$5,000,000 to qualified service disabled veteran-owned businesses. Such contracts would also be required to provide the best value to the government in the judgment of the contracting officer. Changing "may" to "shall" would merely put service-disabled veterans on an equal footing with businesses qualifying as an 8(a) firm under the Small Business Act. The word "shall" is used when awarding noncompetitive contracts to 8(a) firms. The disparity created by using "may" versus "shall" has a negative effect on the ability of service disabled veteran-owned businesses to obtain contracts with VA. It is important that service-disabled veterans are able to compete on a level field and I will continue to advocate for changing "may" to "shall".

Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud of the provisions in Public Law 109-461 passed during the 109th Congress, that improve the competitive status of veteran-owned businesses, VOB, and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, SDVOB. We did that by giving Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, contracting officers additional tools to award contracts to those businesses and by making it plain that Congress believed that VOB and SDVOB have priority in VA small business contracting. One of those provisions required VA to maintain a database of veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses and to verify the ownership and control of the businesses listed in the database.

Unfortunately, VA has been slow to implement the verification process and has currently